

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
May 28, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

***2nd Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, VA 20186***

Members Present: Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman, Ed Moore, Vice Chairman, R. Holder Trumbo, Adrienne Garreau, John Green, Matthew Sheedy, Tony Tedeschi, Mark Nesbit, and Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Roy Tate, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ray Acors, Lieutenant, Fauquier County Sheriff's Office

Staff Present: Kimberley Fogle, Holly Meade, Marie Scheetz, and Maureen Williamson

Kimberley Fogle announced that Ms. Holly Meade has accepted the position as the new Chief of Planning.

1. Approval of March 26, 2014 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On a motion made by Adrienne Garreau and seconded by Holder Trumbo, it was moved to approve the March 26, 2014 Committee meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Opal Interchange (Ongoing)

Mr. Nesbit gave a brief update to the ongoing improvements/enhancements to the Opal Interchange. His comments included:

- All signs and markings have been installed.
- 24-hour vehicle counts were gathered at the Route 29 and Route 17 intersection southbound left turn lane and at the interchange flyover lane at Opal from 12:00 noon on 2/24/14 to 12:00 noon on 2/25/14. The purpose of these counts was to determine how many vehicles are using the southbound left turn lane and how many vehicles are using the flyover lane to access southbound Route 17. Traffic counts and analysis will be available in the near future.
- Intersection appears to be operating acceptably at this time.
- William S. Shacklette Bypass dedication ceremony is planned for Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Liberty High School. Signs will be installed on Route 29 in late May.

ACTION: The Committee opted to continue to monitor the Opal Interchange project and to have it remain on the agenda for the June 25, 2014 meeting.

3. *April, May, and June 2014 – VDOT – Fauquier County Monthly Reports*

Mr. Tate offered to answer any questions related to the monthly reports. He noted that these reports are compiled to keep the Board of Supervisors (BOS) informed as to all VDOT activities.

Adrienne Garreau inquired about Holtzclaw Road (Route 681), a gravel road, which she notes has a deep ditch that runs across the road. Mr. Tate made note of the inquiry.

Mr. Eltringham made a request of VDOT that County Staff receive copies of completed engineering studies. Mr. Tate will make the request.

Per an inquiry made by Mrs. Fogle, Mr. Tate confirmed that the repaving of Rectortown Road (Route 710) is undergoing a cut and patch process, over which a surface overlay will be applied.

4. *Old Business*

- ***O’Keefe Road – John Green Request***

At the request of the Committee, the intersection of Route 29 and Route 661 (O’Keefe Road) remains on the agenda. At the March 26, 2014 Committee meeting, Mr. Green was asked to provide data supporting the accidents he has described occurring on O’Keefe Road.

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Green reported contacting various local agencies (county and state police and Bealeton/Remington volunteer fire department) asking for accident data for the intersection. He reports frustration in that not one agency reports data the same way and the agencies do not have a common system for collecting data.

In a brief write-up provided by VDOT and referred to by Mr. Tate, in March 2014, VDOT installed stop bars in the median crossovers to assist with crossover related crashes. He continued that VDOT states that, based on traffic engineering staff review, which included several site visits, the crash history does not support further action. However, Mr. Green continues to express his concern with the high level of accidents on O’Keefe Road. His concerns lie specifically in improving driver’s line of sight, as visibility is obstructed by telephone poles, guyed wires, and street signs.

The Committee discussed considering bringing O’Keefe Road into the Six-Year Plan. Mr. Eltringham, on behalf of making an informed recommendation to the BOS, requested that Staff work with VDOT to define a scope of work to include costs of changes to improve safety at this site.

ACTION: Staff to work with VDOT to define scope of work and estimated costs to improve safety at this site so that this Committee can make an informed decision about the possibility of adding the site to the Six-Year Plan and ultimately making a recommendation to the BOS.

With regard to ascertaining if other jurisdictions are having similar frustrations with obtaining accurate crash data, Mr. Tedeschi suggested contacting the Rural Transportation Committee to ask for an opportunity to attend an upcoming meeting to speak about the data gap that exists. The Rural Transportation Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month.

ACTION: Staff to represent Committee at an upcoming meeting of the Rural Transportation Committee in an effort to present the fact that a data gap exists amongst reporting agencies in regard to accident data and to gauge if other jurisdictions are experiencing the same.

ACTION: In an effort to determine what action to take in regard to accurate accident data collection, County Staff to consider a market survey to discover current data collection systems used by state, local and first responders.

- ***Hopewell Road/Waterfall Road Through-Truck Traffic Restriction***

In response to Supervisor Trumbo's request for an update on the status of a truck ban on Hopewell Road (Route 601), Ms. Scheetz reported that per Susan Eddy, Prince William County approached Fauquier County asking for a resolution and due to their taking the lead on the project, the resolution was submitted to VDOT's Northern Virginia's District Office and not our Culpeper District Office. According to Ms. Scheetz, who is working with Steve Stevens of Prince William County, the truck ban resolution was not approved, as VDOT did not agree with the alternate truck route that was proposed.

Ms. Scheetz reports that Prince William County is reinitializing the process and they estimate that it will take two months (mid-July) to get the authorization. She also reports that once authorization is received, new resolutions will need to be signed and sent from the Town of The Plains and Fauquier County.

Mr. Trumbo asked Staff to obtain the Northern Virginia's District Office report listing the specific findings including why the proposed truck route was not approved.

ACTION: Staff is to pursue the report issued by the Northern Virginia District Office in regard to the truck ban on Hopewell Road.

ACTION: Staff is to add this topic to the July agenda.

- ***Update on the Route 17 (Marshall to Warrenton) Traffic Calming Meeting***

Ms. Scheetz reports that a committee consisting of Senator Vogel, members from the Board of Supervisors, VDOT, State and County law enforcement, and County staff, met with Mr. Scott Filling on April 29, 2014 to discuss his request for traffic calming measures. Four outcomes of the meeting include the following:

- County attorneys are working to determine if ordinance code 13.5-3d related to noise resulting from unnecessary engine braking is legal and enforceable.
- VDOT is in the process of installing enlarged 36' x 48' foot speed limit signs on Route 17 southbound immediately south of Interstate 66, to alert drivers exiting the Interstate of the 45 mph speed limit.
- VDOT is exploring the possibility of designating Route 17 as a Highway Safety Corridor.
- VDOT to look at speed data in this section of Route 17 to determine the effectiveness of posting permanent electronic speed signs.

Temporary electronic speed signs continue to be installed along this section of Route 17.

ACTION: Staff is asked to continue to monitor this item for monthly progress and to keep this item on the monthly agenda as old business.

5. ***New Business***

- **Overview of the May 14, 2014 CTB Public Hearing for the FY 2015-2020 Six-Year Improvement Program**

Mr. Eltringham stated that Committee Members and Staff represented the County at the May 14, 2014 Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) public hearing for the Culpeper District. Ms. Scheetz noted that the purpose of the public hearing was an opportunity for the County to provide the CTB with comments on essential proposed projects included in the Working Draft Fiscal Year 2015-2020 Six-Year Improvement Plan, which are up for approval by the CTB in June 2014.

Mr. Tate estimates the approved 2015-2020 Six-Year Improvement Plan will be issued in July 2014.

- **House Bill 2**

Ms. Scheetz informed the Committee that on April 6, 2014, Virginia's General Assembly approved House Bill 2 amending the Code of Virginia to mandate that the Commonwealth implement a statewide prioritization process for selecting projects for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). She continued that the purpose of this process is to prioritize projects based on objective metrics and to make the process less political. Five factors are being considered as part of the prioritization process: congestion, mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality. Ms. Scheetz said

that each of these factors will be weighed differently based on their construction district. For example, she noted that projects in Northern Virginia will weigh congestion mitigation more heavily than Fauquier County. However, she continued, projects in Fauquier County will likely weigh economic development more heavily.

Ms. Scheetz discussed that while the bill's prioritization process does not take effect until July 1, 2016, she perceives an impact to projects that are currently included in the SYIP specifically those that have not had construction funding allocated. She notices that they are starting to pull funding from unfunded projects and funding projects that are in construction in an effort to complete them and move them off the SYIP. Anything that doesn't have construction funding by 2017, will be subject to the prioritization process.

While the processes and procedures of House Bill 2 are unpublished at this time, Staff will monitor for updates, as they become available.

- **FY 2016-2021 SYIP Regional Priorities**

Mr. Walker discussed the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission's preparation of a list of regional priorities for the fiscal year 2016-2021 SYIP. The Committee was asked to submit a listing of approximately three to five regional priority projects that the Committee would like to have submitted to VDOT for inclusion in the FY 2016-2021 SYIP. The Committee chose to submit the following four projects for inclusion in the FY 2016-2021 SYIP:

- Route 28 (Catlett Road) from 29 to 17 (extend scope of work on Route 28 to include Bealeton Service District)
- Construction interchange Route 15/17/19 at Route 15/17/19 Business
- Marshall Drainage Project
- Route 602 Rogues Road

ACTION: County Staff to provide the regional priorities to the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission for inclusion in the FY 2016-2021 SYIP.

6. *Citizens' Time*

Mountjoy Road – Joseph Guite, Jr. Request

Mr. Guite has previously come to the Committee asking about a portion of Mountjoy Road being adopted into the state system for maintenance and a turnaround provided for "lost" large vehicles. He attends this meeting for an update from VDOT regarding his request.

A discussion was had between VDOT and Staff related to the history of Mountjoy Road and Staff action is recorded as follows.

ACTION: VDOT to forward documents pertaining to Mountjoy Road for County Staff to review with regard to where the state maintenance line ends on Mountjoy

Road. County Staff to provide their review and recommendation at the next meeting of this Committee, which is June 25, 2014.

Ms. Bolthouse of Piedmont Environmental Council, made note of a recent meeting regarding the Waterloo Bridge. At the meeting, she pointed out that the counties made it very clear that they were not interested in a replacement for the bridge. Her concern lies in the fact that in the SYIP, the bridge is listed as a replacement project and she feels the wording should be changed to reflect the counties wishes for rehabilitation. Mr. Eltringham assured Ms. Bolthouse that at the recent Commonwealth Transportation Board public hearing for the Culpeper District, a strong case was made for rehabilitation.

7. Member Comments

Mr. Sheedy reported receiving a call from Fauquier Trails Coalition (FTC) which works with Fauquier Parks & Rec to build, repair and connect various trails in the county. He noted that FTC is trying to expand and connect their network of trails. They would like to work with the Committee, so as roads are being built, the FTC can make recommendations early on in the process. The FTC would like to make a brief presentation to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

ACTION: Staff to facilitate the scheduling of the FTC to provide a brief presentation to the Committee at the June 25, 2014 meeting. County Staff is encouraged to invite other agencies (school board, ARB) who may be impacted by the FTC.

Mr. Trumbo reported that the BOS and the School Board Liaison Committee met to discuss the improvement of traffic flow at the intersection of Route 602 for Kettle Run High School. Two outcomes of the meeting included extension of the right turn lane into Kettle Run and a basic retiming of the traffic light.

ACTION: VDOT is asked to initiate a meeting with the principal of Kettle Run High School, Major Warner, to discuss what can be done related to traffic improvement at the intersection.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 25, 2014.**